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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/650,338 Confirmation No. 6839  
Applicant : Y. HIRAKAWA et al  
Filed : August 27, 2003  
Title : STORAGE SYSTEM  
TC/AU : 2167  
Examiner : S.R. Pannala  
Docket No. : H-5027  
Customer No.: 24956

Commissioner for Patents  
Mail Stop DD  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**  
**UNDER § 1.97 AND § 1.98**

Sir:

1. This IDS should be considered:

(a) when filed within three months of the filing date of the present application, or within three months of the filing date of the National Stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs last;

(b) when filed before the mailing date of either a Final Rejection under § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311, whichever occurs first and when 1(a) does not apply. For this purpose, there is included herein either a certification in section 4 below (included when indicated by a marked box), or a fee of \$180.00 (a Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed, or if not see section 5 below);

(c) when filed prior to the payment of the Issue Fee, when 1(a)-(b) do not apply, and when a certification is included in section 4 below (included when indicated by a marked box); then the Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) and request(s) consideration of this IDS, and provided herewith is a fee of \$180.00 (a Credit Card 180.00 OP

Appl. No. 10/650,338  
Information Disclosure Statement  
dated December 13, 2005

H-5027

Payment Form in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the petition fee, or if not see section 5 below).

2. When 1(a)-(c) do not apply, then it is requested that this IDS be placed in the file.

3. Listing of the information submitted is on the attached Form PTO-1449, which forms a part of this IDS. A copy of each listed document is enclosed when needed.

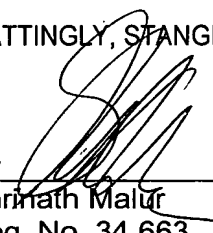
4. If a fee or additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or additional fee that may be required and credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

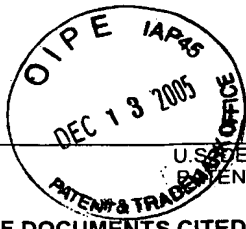
5. No explanation of relevancy is being provided for the following document(s) because each is either in the English language, discussed in the present Specification, or its relevance is as stated in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application.

6. If the PTO determines that part(s) of the required content is inadvertently omitted, then it is requested that the Applicant(s) be given additional time and specific identification of such omission(s) to enable full compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

By   
Shrinath Malur  
Reg. No. 34,663  
(703) 684-1120

FORM PTO-1449  
(REV. 7-80)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY. DOCKET NO.  
H-5027SERIAL NO.  
10/650,338**LIST OF DOCUMENTS CITED BY APPLICANT**  
(Use several sheets if necessary)APPLICANT  
Y. HIRAKAWA et al.FILING DATE  
August 27, 2003GROUP  
2167**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

* EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (If Appropriate)
AA	5,974,563	10/26/99	Beeler			
AB	2003/ 0084075	05/01/03	Balogh et al.			
AC	5,799,323	08/25/98	Mosher et al.			
AD	2001/ 0029570	10/11/01	Yamamoto et al.			
AE	5,555,371	09/10/96	Duyanovich et al.			
AF	6,052,758	04/18/00	Crockett et al.			
AG	6,148,383	11/14/00	Micka et al.			
AH	6,463,501	10/08/02	Kern et al.			
AI	2003/ 0229764	12/11/03	Ohno et al.			
AJ						
AK						

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

	DOCUMENT	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
AL	1283469	02/12/03	EP			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AM						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AN						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AO						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AP						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**OTHER DOCUMENTS** (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

AR		
AS		
AT		

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.